

Amendment Dated: November 18, 2003

Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2003

R E M A R K S

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. The amendments to the specification improve the format. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 4-20 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled by this amendment. Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating subject matter of allowable claim 3. Claim 2 has been cancelled as being redundant.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8-12 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Neat (USP 5,464,708), Fong (USP 5,028,500) and Moses (USP 5,948,569). Claims 1, 2 and 4-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Ohzuku (*J. Electrochem. Soc.*, Vol. 142, No. 5, May 1995, pp.1431-1435) in view of Fong and Moses. Applicants traverse.

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Independent claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of cancelled allowable claim 3. Claim 1 is accordingly instantly allowable. Claims dependent upon claim 1 are allowable for at least the above reasons.

These rejections are accordingly overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 9, 2001 and for making the initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the application in the Office Action mailed July 18, 2003.

Prior Art Cited But Not Utilized by the Examiner

The prior art cited but not utilized by the Examiner indicates the status of the conventional art that the invention supercedes. Additional remarks are accordingly not necessary.

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Foreign Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged foreign priority in the Office Action mailed July 18, 2003.

Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawing figures are acceptable in the next official action.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of one (1) month to November 18, 2003 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$110.00 is enclosed herewith.

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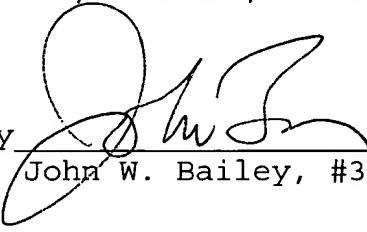
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


John W. Bailey, #32,881

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000


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0707-0152P

(Rev. 09/30/03)